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## **DRAFT-Sullivan Creek Project Negotiation Team Fourth Mediated Session**

On March 3 and 4, 2009, the fourth mediated session of the settlement negotiation team for the surrender of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license for the Sullivan Creek Hydroelectric Project met in Newport, Washington. The negotiation team, which is made up of a mix of state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, the public utility district, local officials, and representatives of the local community, is working with the help of the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution to find options for resolving the issues for surrendering of the Project license.

At their fourth meeting, the negotiation continued the information gathering process by listening to presentations from various team working groups. The working groups include the Sullivan Lake Water group, the Public Meetings group, the Boundary Dam Relicensing Mitigation group, the Options Package Development group, the Legal Framework group, and the Wetlands Assessment group. Groups undertaking field studies, such as the Boundary Dam Relicensing Mitigation group and the Wetlands Assessment group are waiting for the spring thaw and other physical conditions to improve before they can begin their studies.

The majority of the time at the meeting was devoted to a discussion of Sullivan Lake water management options in accordance with the various team/stakeholder interests. This includes ways to improve fishing and fisheries in the lake. The team also brainstormed potential funding resources and how the Columbia River Initiative might fit into the project.

A public meeting was held in the evening of March 4th at the Cutter Theatre in Metaline Falls to provide an update on the work that the team has accomplished to date. Negotiation team members were there to answer questions and to gather any public comment.

The next mediation session is scheduled for April 1-2, 2009 at the Washington Department of Ecology's office in Spokane. The public is welcome to attend the mediation sessions if they are willing to sign the Observer Agreement. Anyone wishing to attend should notify Gail Brooks at [brooks@ecr.gov](mailto:brooks@ecr.gov) or (520) 901-8532 so that she can plan the room logistics. A copy of the Observer Agreement is available on the project website and upon request.

Information on the project is available at the project's website: <http://sullivancreek.ecr.gov>.

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